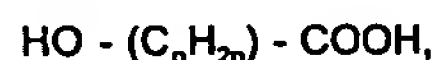
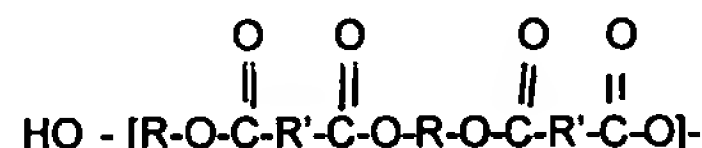


the linear polyester has a weight average molecular weight of greater than 10,000 and is selected from the group consisting of linear polyesters (i) composed of an aliphatic hydroxy-carboxylic acid monomer of the general formula:



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 21; and (ii) derived from the combination of a diacid and a diol and corresponds to the formula:



wherein R is an aliphatic hydrocarbon residue with 2, 4 or 6 carbon atoms; and R' is an aliphatic saturated or unsaturated divalent hydrocarbon residue with 2 to 22 carbon atoms.

40. The composition of Claim 39, wherein the degree of substitution of the esterified starch is from about 1.5 to about 2.9.

41. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the esterified starch is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> starch esters.

42. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the esterified starch is selected from the group consisting of starch acetates, starch propionates, starch butyrates, starch pentanoates, and starch hexanoates, and mixtures thereof.

43. A composition according to Claim 40, wherein the starch ester contains at least two different ester residues attached to the same starch molecule.

44. The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the starch ester is a mixed starch ester comprising at least two members bound to the same starch molecule selected from the group consisting of acetate, propionate, butyrate, pentanoate, hexanoate, heptanoate and octanoate.

45. The composition according Claim 44, wherein the mixed starch ester comprises both acetate and propionate groups bound to the same starch molecule.

46. The composition according to Claim 44, wherein the starch ester comprises both acetate and butyrate groups bound to the same starch molecule.

47. The composition according to Claim 44, wherein the starch ester comprises both propionate and butyrate groups bound to the same starch molecule.

48. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the starch ester is a physical blend of at least two different starch esters.

49. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the degree of substitution of the esterified starch is from about 1.8 to about 2.9.

50. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the degree of substitution of the esterified starch is from about 1.8 to about 2.5.

51. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the esterified starch is derived from a

starch with an amylose content of at least about 50% by weight with respect to that of the dry starch.

52. A composition according to Claim 40, wherein the esterified starch is <sup>obtained</sup> derived from a starch with an amylose content being in excess of about 70% by weight with respect to that of the dry starch.

53. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein  $n$  is an integer from 1 to 7.

54. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein said acid is selected from the group comprising glycolic acid ( $n = 1$ ), lactic acid ( $n = 2$  and wherein the hydroxyl group is fixed in the alpha-position), hydroxy butyric acid, hydroxy isobutyric acid ( $n = 3$ ), hydroxy valeric acid ( $n = 4$ ), hydroxy caproic acid ( $n = 5$ ) wherein in each case the hydroxy group is fixed in the terminal position.

55. A composition according to Claim 40, wherein the acid is hydroxy caproic acid in the form of a cyclic ester.

56. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the polyester is selected from the group consisting of poly(3-propiolactone), poly(5-valerolactone), poly(6-caprolactone), poly(6-decalactone), poly(7- $\epsilon$ -enantholactone), poly(8-caprylolactone), poly(12-lauro lactone), poly(15-pentadodecanolactone), poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), or poly(hydroxy-butyrate-co-valerate).

57. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polyester is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene succinate), poly(ethylene adipate), and mixtures thereof.

58. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polyester is poly(6-caprolactone).

59. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polyester is present in an amount of from 10 to 95% by weight with respect to that of the composition.

60. The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polyester is present in the composition in an amount of from about 20 to 75% by weight with respect to that of the composition.

61. The composition according to Claim 40, which further comprises a plasticizer, said plasticizer being present in an amount of 1% to 50% by weight of the total composition.

62. The composition according to Claim 61, wherein the plasticizer is N-ethyl-o,p-toluene sulfonamide.

63. The composition according to Claim 40, which further includes a member selected from the group consisting of extenders; fillers; wood derived materials; oxides of magnesium, aluminum, silicon, and titanium; alkali and alkaline earth metal salts; lubricants; mold release agents; acid scavengers; UV-stabilizers; coloring agents; flame retardants; antioxidants; thermal stabilizers; and mixtures thereof.

64. The composition according to Claim 40, further comprising a native starch selected from the group consisting of potatoes, rice, tapioca, corn, pea, rye, oats, barley, maize and wheat.